

**BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of the Accusation  
Against:**

**Mounir Belcadi, M.D.**

**Case No. 800-2015-015536**

**Physician's and Surgeon's  
Certificate No. A 93642**

**Respondent**

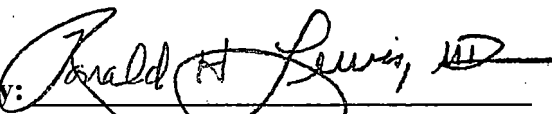
**DECISION**

**The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.**

**This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 19, 2019.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED May 20, 2019.**

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald H. Lewis, M.D., Chair  
Panel A

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 MARY CAIN-SIMON  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 CAROLYNE EVANS  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 289206  
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*Attorneys for Complainant*

8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2015-015536

14 **MOUNIR BELCADI, M.D.**

15 **200 Hillmont Avenue**  
16 **Ventura, CA 93003**

17 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A**  
18 **93642**

19 Respondent.

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND**  
**DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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21  
22 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-  
23 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board  
26 of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in  
27 this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Carlyne Evans,  
28 Deputy Attorney General.

2. Respondent Mounir Belcadi, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Joseph Gharrity, Hassard Bonnington LLP, 275 Battery Street, Suite 1600, San Francisco, CA 94111.

3. On or about December 23, 2005, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93642 to Respondent. The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2015-015536, and will expire on December 31, 2019, unless renewed.

## JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2015-015536 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 15, 2018. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.

5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2015-015536 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

## ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2015-015536. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.

7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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CULPABILITY

9. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing, complainant could establish a *prima facie* case with respect to the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2015-015536 and that he has thereby subjected his license to disciplinary action.

10. Respondent stipulates that the Board has jurisdiction to impose a public reprimand upon his certificate to practice medicine pursuant to section 2227 of the Business and Professions Code. Respondent agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

A. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93642

1 issued to Respondent Mounir Belcadi, M.D. shall be and hereby is publically reprimanded  
2 pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This  
3 public reprimand is issued in connection with Respondent's unprofessional conduct in the care  
4 and treatment of Patient P-1 as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2015-015536.

5 **B. EDUCATION COURSE**

6 Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall submit to  
7 the Board or its designee for its prior approval an educational program or course in medication  
8 management. The educational program or course shall be aimed at correcting any areas of  
9 deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified. The educational program or  
10 course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical  
11 Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of the  
12 program or course, the Board or its designee may administer an examination to test Respondent's  
13 knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance in the course or seminar  
14 in satisfaction of this condition and of the hours of CME credit received. Respondent shall  
15 participate in and successfully complete the program or course not later than six (6) months after  
16 Respondent's initial enrollment.

17 Failure to successfully complete the educational program or course outlined above shall  
18 constitute unprofessional conduct and grounds for further disciplinary action.

19 **C. MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE**. Within 60 calendar days of the  
20 effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping  
21 approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall provide the approved course  
22 provider with any information and documents that the approved course provider may deem  
23 pertinent. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete the classroom component of  
24 the course not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment. Respondent shall  
25 successfully complete any other component of the course within one (1) year of enrollment. The  
26 medical record keeping course shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the  
27 Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

28 A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the

1 Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board  
2 or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have  
3 been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of  
4 this Decision.

5 Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its  
6 designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than  
7 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

8  
9 ACCEPTANCE

10 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully  
11 discussed it with my attorney. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my  
12 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
13 Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order  
14 of the Medical Board of California.

15 DATED: 07/01/19 

16 MOUNIR BELCADI, M.D.  
17 Respondent

18 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Mounir Belcadi, M.D. the terms and  
19 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.  
20 I approve its form and content.

21 DATED: 4/1/19 

22 Attorney for Respondent

23 ENDORSEMENT

24 The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully

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submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

Dated:

4/9/2019

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
MARY CAIN-SIMON  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

  
  
CAROLYNE EVANS  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2015-015536**



XAVIER BECERRA  
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*Attorneys for Complainant*

BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2015-015536

**Mounir Belcadi, M.D.**

**ACCUSATION**

**Hillmont Inpatient Psychiatric Unit  
200 Hillmont Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93003**

**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate  
No. A93642,**

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

**PARTIES**

1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On December 23, 2005, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A93642 to Mounir Belcadi, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on December 31, 2019, unless renewed.

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4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

“ . . .

“(d) Incompetence.

66 77  
• • • •

"The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."

7. At all times relevant to this matter, Respondent was licensed and practicing psychiatric medicine in California.

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**PATIENT P-1<sup>1</sup>**

8. Respondent saw Patient P-1 from approximately June 2007- October 2012 when he was released from a psychiatric hospital after jumping from the second story of a building. He was 41 years old when he first saw Respondent. P-1 had a history of severe bipolar symptoms including delusions, paranoid ideation, irritability, depression, suicidal ideation, and at least one possible suicide attempt (jumping from the second story). He had several previous psychiatric hospitalizations. From 2007 to 2012, Respondent prescribed, among other medications, lithium carbonate<sup>2</sup> for P-1's symptoms. During that period, he tested P-1's lithium levels only six times, September 14, 2007 (0.69), February 14, 2008 (0.97), August 22, 2008 (0.68), March 14, 2009 (1.1), August 31, 2011 (0.28), and September 27, 2012 (0.9).

9. From the time Respondent assumed the care of P-1 in June 2007 until March 2009, he kept him on 1800 mg of lithium carbonate daily, 900 mg twice a day. On March 11, 2009, Respondent increased P-1's lithium to 2400 mg daily, 1200 mg twice a day and checked the level of lithium three days later on March 14, 2009. It was 1.10. There is no documentation of Respondent's testing P-1's lithium level again until August 31, 2011, nearly two and a half years later, although he continued treating P-1 with 1200 mg of lithium twice daily until March 6, 2012. On August 31, 2011, P-1's lithium level was 0.28, well below an effective level.

10. On March 6, 2012, without any documentation other than the prescription, Respondent reduced P-1's lithium to 600 mg twice a day. Respondent states that the reduction in dosage was a mistake.

11. Respondent saw P-1 in his office on September 13, 2012 and did not document confirming with P-1 the dose of lithium he was taking.

12. On September 24, 2012, Respondent saw Patient P-1 in his office and did not document confirming with P-1 the dose of lithium he was taking. Respondent tested P-1's lithium level on September 27, 2012. It was 0.9.

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<sup>1</sup> The patient is designated in this document as Patient P-1 to protect his privacy. Respondent knows the name of the patient and can confirm his identity through discovery.

<sup>2</sup> Lithium carbonate is used to treat mania associated with bipolar disorder. It works to stabilize the mood and reduce extremes in behavior in part by restoring the balance of neurotransmitters in the brain. It is a dangerous drug as defined in section 4022.

1 A month later, on October 23, 2012, Respondent switched P-1 from a "short release"  
2 formulation that he took twice a day to an extended release version that he was to take once a day  
3 at bedtime. Respondent's chart notes give no explanation for the change but Respondent states  
4 that he believed that taking the medication once a day might relieve P-1's lithium induced  
5 tremors. He said he believed that P-1 was still on 2400 mg of lithium instead of the 1200 mg  
6 daily that he had switched him to on March 6, 2012 and that he was simply changing the  
7 formulation, not the dose.

8 13. On November 2, 2012, P-1's wife called Respondent and told him that P-1 was  
9 having severe vomiting and diarrhea. According to Respondent's chart notes, when he saw P-1  
10 later that day, he was ataxic (loss of coordination of the muscles), slurring his words, and  
11 tremulous. Respondent recommended that P-1 go to the emergency room because of the potential  
12 for lithium toxicity.

13 14. Patient P-1 was admitted to the hospital with lithium toxicity and required dialysis to  
14 correct his excessively high lithium level of 5.4.

#### 15 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### 16 **(Repeated Negligent Acts and/or Incompetence and/or Inadequate and Inaccurate Medical** 17 **Recordkeeping)**

18 15. Respondent is guilty of unprofessional conduct and subject to disciplinary action  
19 under section 2234, subdivisions (a) (violating the Medical Practice Act), (c) (repeated negligent  
20 acts), and/or (d) (incompetence) and section 2266 (failed to maintain adequate and accurate  
21 medical records) of the Code in that Respondent engaged in the conduct described above  
22 including, but not limited to, the following:

23 A. Respondent had no chart notes for March 6, 2012 and failed to document a reason for  
24 reducing P-1's lithium dosage from 1200 mg twice a day to 600 mg twice a day on March 6, 2012  
25 or even that to mention that he had changed the dose and failed to document that he changed P-  
26 1's lithium from a short-acting to extended release formulation on October 23, 2012 or the reason  
27 for the change.  
28

1 B. Respondent failed to check P-1's lithium level regularly, i.e., a few days after a dose  
2 change or initiation, a repeat level in a few months, and then a repeat level every six months, and  
3 failed to recognize that a patient's lithium level should be checked 3 to 5 days after a change in  
4 lithium formulation even if the daily dosage remains the same.

5 C. Respondent failed to review with P-1 on a regular basis the dose of lithium he was  
6 taking and confirm that the correct dosage was being taken despite Respondent's prescribing such  
7 a high dosage for him.

8 **PRAYER**

9 WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,  
10 and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 11 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number A93642,  
12 issued to Mounir Belcadi M.D.;
- 13 2. Revoking, suspending, or denying approval of Mounir Belcadi, M.D.'s authority to  
14 supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 15 3. Ordering Mounir Belcadi, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of  
16 probation monitoring; and
- 17 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

18  
19 DATED: May 15, 2018

  
KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
Complainant